



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Channing D. Phillips
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PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Man Sentenced to 100 months in Prison for Possessing and Transporting Child Pornography

WASHINGTON - Marc Accardi, a 37-year-old resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was sentenced today by the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, to 100 months in prison for Transportation of Child Pornography, and a concurrent term of 100 months in prison for Possession of Child Pornography, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy L. Lanier, and Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of The FBI's Washington Field Office. Accardi pled guilty to the charges in May 2009.

According to government evidence presented at the plea hearing, on November 21, 2008, a member of the FBI/MPD Child Exploitation Task Force, working undercover and posing as a pedophile, entered a Yahoo pedophile fetish chat room. Within minutes, the defendant and the undercover began having a conversation about children. In response to the undercover's inquiry regarding the age of children that the defendant preferred, the defendant wrote, "baby on up". Over the course of the chat, the defendant sent multiple still images of female children under 10 years old have sexual contact with adult males.

In December 2008, the execution of a search warrant on the defendant's house and his computer, revealed that the defendant possessed more than 1000 images of female children having sexual contact with adult males.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the District of Columbia MPD/FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the quick action and investigative work, during this Project Safe Childhood initiative, of a joint task force consisting of Metropolitan Police Department Detective Timothy Palchak, and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents. Finally, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Julieanne Himelstein, who prosecuted the case.

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